Direct Train between Delhi and Jhansi

†2843. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to run a direct train from Delhi to Jhansi, which is the nearest railway station to Khajuraho, the main tourist centre of Madhya Pradesh; and

(b) whether there is any scope of extending Hazrat Nizamuddin Gwalior Taj Express upto Jhansi, with a view to facilitate the tourists heading for Taj Mahal and Khajuraho?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Yes, Sir. It is proposed in the Railway Budget 2001-2002 to introduce New Delhi-Bilaspur Rajdhani Express (weekly) and Nizamuddin-Secunderabad Rajdhani Express (weekly) with stoppages at Jhansi.

(b) No, Sir.

Sub-Standard Food in Trains from Orissa

2844. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state whether the S.E. Railway authorities at Kolkata have received complaints regarding supply of sub-standard food in all trains running from Orissa to States outside Orissa, including Delhi and Kolkata?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): No, Sir. There is no complaint regarding supply of sub-standard food in all trains running from Orissa to outside States over S.E. Railway.

Re-use of Wooden Rail Slippers

2845. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to change over from wooden to concrete slippers, the Railways are suffering loss of crores of rupees as wooden slippers are lying besides the tracks, exposed to sun and rain;

(b) whether hutment dwellersare using these slippers for their use; and

(c) whether Government have any scheme to re-use such slippers for any other purpose?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.